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A New Hope; Fresh Dynamic At Work In Ecology Movement

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Body

FILM REVIEW

Earth: Seen from the Heart

There's a new narrative taking shape in the ecological movement. Not that things aren't bad, but that they may just conceivably be getting a little better, here and there.

It's a theme in An Inconvenient Sequel, the 2017 followup to Al Gore's 2006 ***climate***-change doc. It can be seen in the way American states, cities and individuals are fighting the ***eco***-intransigence of their president.

It's also given voice in a new documentary from Montreal filmmaker Iolande Cadrin-Rossignol. Released in Quebec as La Terre Vue Du Coeur, Earth: Seen from the Heart opens and closes with an interview with Hubert Reeves, a Canadian astrophysicist who has given much thought to the universe and our place in it.

The intervening 90 minutes introduces philosophers, oceanographers, biologists and activists discussing the dangers we face as the cause and possible victim of Earth's sixth mass extinction. (The fifth took out the dinosaurs.)

It's a cautious balance between ***doom***-saying and optimism. It's also a bit jumpy, one moment visiting French botanist Francis Hallé and his "canopy raft" (an airship that lets him explore rainforests from the treetops), the next checking in with lawyers and activists campaigning to have animals classified as something more than mere property.

But it's an interesting survey of our Holocene Age, and the second comparison of late (see Richard Conniff's op-ed piece in the New York Times) between Winston Churchill's reaction to the rise of Fascism, and the current fear for the future of life on Earth. "I see great reason for intense vigilance and exertion," Churchill said in 1940. "None whatever for panic or despair."

Or as Reeves puts it: We must act as if we are going to triumph, even though we may not. ½ National Post Earth: Seen from the Heart screens once on April 29 in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Halifax, Ottawa, Oakville, Peterborough, Sudbury and Windsor. !@COPYRIGHT=© 2018 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Graphic

Credit: Maison 4 Tiers; Hubert Reeves, featured in the documentary Earth: Seen from the Heart, is a Canadian astrophysicist who has given much thought to the universe and our place in it.;

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